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Plague in October, 1904.

During the month of October there were 29 new cases considered as plague, and of these 17 were fatal, and with 1 death of a case reported as occurring in September, makes the total deaths for the month 18.

For the same period the bacteriological laboratory reports that there were investigated 23 suspect cases, of which 20 were verified as plague and 3 were decided negative. It further reports that from July 7 to October 31 they were notified of 142 cases, of which 115 were confirmed and 27 proved negative. Of the 115 cases, 10 died in their residence during bacteriological examination, and 3 in quarantine, and 1 ran away; 101 being sent to the plague hospital, of which 45 have been discharged as cured, 38 died, and 18 remain under treatment.

During the first three days of November there have been 5 new cases of plague, of which 2 were fatal; in addition there have been 2 deaths of plague in cases which entered the hospital in October, making total deaths for November, 4.

Reports from Rio—Mortuary statistics—Plague and smallpox—Compulsory vaccination law.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports as follows:

Week ended the 15th instant the following vessels were inspected and issued bills of health from this office:

On the 9th instant the British steamship *Metis*, for Philadelphia, Pa., with a cargo of manganese ore; no change in the personnel of the crew here, and no one ashore in this port except the captain of the ship. All the crew of this vessel were either Lascars or Japanese. On the 12th instant the British steamship *Moorish Prince*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee; no change in the personnel of the crew, no passengers of any class (the *Metis* also carried no passengers), and with no members of the crew except the captain ashore in this port. On the 15th instant the British steamship *Cervantes*, for New York, with no change in the personnel of the crew, with 3 first-class passengers from Rio, and with no member of the crew ashore in this port except the captain; and on the same date the British steamship *Horace*, for New Orleans, via Barbados, West Indies, for disinfection, with 2 new members of the crew taken on in this port, no passengers, and no one of the crew ashore in this port except the captain.

No other vessels left this port for United States ports during the week under consideration.

At a meeting of the health officials and prominent merchants of the city held on the 10th instant it was resolved that owing to the widespread existence of plague throughout Brazilian ports that disinfecting apparatuses of the "Clayton" type should be supplied to all the ports of the State of Bahia, and the quarantine regulations as regard disinfection of vessels from infected ports be insisted on in the ports of arrival, and in some cases at the ports of departure. I mean, of course, that portion of the regulations referring to disinfection of vessels from infected ports.

Reports from Para (Belem, to use the Brazilian name) show a continuance of the arrival at that port of sick soldiers from the northern frontiers. A report of date of the 14th instant says that in the infirmaries of the city there are 210 sick privates, and one of date of the 17th

instant states that on that day there were 135 privates ill in the military hospital. The cause of the illness is not given, but in all probability a majority of the cases are malarial in type.

Mortality in Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

During the week ended the 9th instant there were 116 deaths. The population is about 270,000 people. Measles caused 1 death; grippe, 1; cholera-nostras, 3; dysentery, 3; leprosy, 1; chronic malarial fever, 1; tuberculosis, 10; syphilis, 1; cancers and tumors, 4; affections of the nervous system, 7; affections of the circulatory system, 7; of the respiratory system, 15; of the digestive system, 39; of the urinary system, 2; puerperal septicæmia, 1; diseases of the skin, 1; congenital debility, 6; violent deaths, 3; diseases badly defined, 2, and stillborn, 7.

Of these deaths, 54 were males and 62 females; 104 were natives and 12 were foreigners; 93 were unmarried, 17 married, 5 widowed, and 1 whose state as regards matrimony was unknown.

During the same period there were 178 births and 32 marriages.

Mortality in Pernambuco, Brazil.

During the fortnight ended September 15, 1904, there were in all 299 deaths reported. Of this number variola caused 25; typhoid fever, 1; whooping cough, 1; malarial fevers, 22; tuberculosis, 57; leprosy, 2; syphilis, 3; grippe, 1; dysentery, 22; and beriberi, 5. Population estimated at about 180,000; possibly as high as 200,000. This gives a mortality rate for the year of 36.7 per 1,000 of the population.

During the period under consideration the highest daily number of deaths was 25 and the lowest 11, while the average was 19.9.

For the fortnight ended September 30, 1904, the total number of deaths was 275. Of this number variola caused 43; typhoid fever, 1; malarial fevers, 15; tuberculosis, 47; leprosy, 1; syphilis, 4; cancer, 4; grippe, 2; dysentery, 6, and beriberi, 5.

The annual mortality rate at these figures would be 34.7 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. Maximum daily number of deaths, 28; minimum, 10; average daily number for period, 18.5.

Mortuary reports from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

During the week ended October 16, 1904, there has been a slight amelioration of the epidemics of variola and plague. In regard to the latter disease I wrote Dr. Oswaldo Cruz, the health officer of the Brazilian Republic, a few days ago asking him if the cause of the late recrudescence of this disease had been traced, and if so what it was. He replied on the subject of plague as follows:

In regard to the recrudescence of plague it has been no surprise to me that it should have occurred. In my report to his excellency the minister of the interior, made to him at the close of the past year, I said, at the conclusion of detailed exposition of the service for the suppression of pest: "I do not, however, hide the fact that I believe that this disease will not yet abandon us, on account of the widespread distribution of plague, and also on account of the intensity of the infection of the capital (Rio)."

Happily, however, there is a diminution at this date in the number of cases and deaths as compared with the corresponding time of last year, and I nourish the hope that, with persistence and active measures, we will at last conquer at the end, perhaps, of some time and save the capital from the ravages of this pestilence.